

Where's The Art?



American schools have made incredible gains that focus on student learning in art. Most states have identified art knowledges and skills students should learn; thousands of art teachers have redesigned their curriculum and realigned their instructional practices. Yet, there is a lack of elementary art programs, staff, and art facilities to enable art learning in our classrooms, schools, and states.

Only 55% of the nation's elementary schools had full time visual arts teachers (45% did not); 73% of the students had art instruction once or twice a week; the average time for art instruction was 43 minutes per class; the mean teaching load was 555 students per week for elementary visual arts teachers; and 49% of the elementary art teachers taught in two or more schools.

Of the regular elementary public elementary schools that offered visual arts, only 56% (about a quarter of all schools) had a dedicated room with special equipment for teaching visual arts; 8% had a dedicated room with no special equipment; 3% used a gymnasium; and 33% taught art in regular classrooms during the academic year 1999-2000, according to the National Center for Education Statistics report, NCES 2002-131.

How are our students to learn computer skills, graphics, ceramics, painting, Internet research, and other knowledge and skills required by the state and local art standards without adequate art facilities, materials, and special equipment?

We need better arts education policies for our children!

What Can You Do?

- *Lead efforts to generate public understanding of the ideas behind the importance of art education policies that promote student learning in art.*
- *Encourage parents, school boards, legislators, press/media to support better policies for art education programs that lead to student learning in art.*
- *Spend time at public meetings to review how art education policies can enhance the quality of art education for all students.*

SUPPORT IMPROVING ART EDUCATION POLICIES.

THE NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

1916 ASSOCIATION DRIVE ■ RESTON, VA 20191-1590 ■ 703-860-8000